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Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR §1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

- 1a. ☒ Form PTO-1449.
- 1b. ☒ Copies of IDS citations.
- 1c. ☐ An English language copy of a Search Report or Official Action from a counterpart foreign application or the PCT International Search Report.
- 1d. ☒ English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) attached to each non-English language publication.
- 1e. ☐ Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of each non-English publication.
- 1f. ☐ List of Copending Applications (ATTACHMENT 1(f), hereto).

2. **[X]** In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is:

(Check appropriate Items 2a, 2b, 2c and/or 2d)

- 2a. ☐ satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed English language copy of the PCT International Search Report or the search report from a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. (See U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's authorization in the Federal Register, Vol. 57, No. 12, January 17, 1992, at page 2031 (Reply to Comment 68).)
- 2b. ☐ set forth in the application.
- 2c. ☒ satisfied because an English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) is attached to each non-English language publication.

2d. [] enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.

3. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

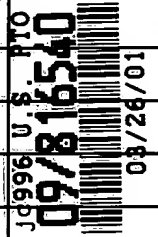
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Registration No. 22,010

FORM PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 1466.1035	APPLICATION NO.
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Yoshiyasu NAKASHIMA et al.	
		FILING DATE March 26, 2001	GROUP ART UNIT

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						



FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AG	9-83431	03/1997	Japan			X	
	AH	9-288174	11/1997	Japan			X	
	AI	10-184656	06/1998	Japan			X	
	AJ	11-212852	08/1999	Japan			X	
	AK							
	AL							

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AM	
	AN	
	AO	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
<p>*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	